

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., said today, "It has come to my attention that 37th Ward Alderwoman Emma Mitts, in a letter to Mr. Michael Picardi, Commissioner, Department of Streets and Sanitation (August 12, 2005), said the following in a letter requesting better garbage pick up in the 37th Ward:

`Due to an enormous amount of Latino's residing in the 37th Ward, including many families living in the same household, the amount of garbage and rodents have increased immensely.'

"I am shocked and very disappointed that someone from a community and a gender that have been victimized by racial and gender stereotypes would engage in such a practice herself. I believe Alderwoman Mitts owes the Latino community a sincere public apology," Jackson concluded.